A new incentive scheme has been finalised to improve the productivity of the operators.

An extensive rehabilitation programme for replacing old worn-out and life expired equipment has been undertaken.

A massive expansion programme has been undertaken to relieve congestion in the network.

Memorandum regarding Extension Programme of Himalayan Timber College, Imphal

1729. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Memorandum regarding Extension Programme of the H.T.T. College, Imphal under Centrally sponsored scheme has been received by Government;

(b) if so, what are the main demands made therein; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action on the Memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Department of Education of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has not received any such Memorandum.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian Students studying Abroad

1730. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Students studying in other countries; and

(b) whether Government propose to raise the amount of scholarship to students for studying in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to available informatinon, about 42,288 Indian students are at present studying in foreign countries of whom 364 scholars are studying on Government of India scholarship.

(b) The rates of scholarship payable to students studying abroad on Government of India Scholarship were last revised by Government with effect from 1st April, 1986 as follows:

Undergraduate courses from US $4500 p.a.

M. Tech/Ph.D from US $ 5000 to US $6000 p.a.

There is no proposal to further increase these rates.

Evil practice of Devdasi

1731. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 100 young girls were converted into Devdasi at Yellamma Hill in Belgaum District of Karnataka on Maghi Poornia day despimte enforcement of Anti-Devdasi Act; and

(b) if so, what action Governent propose to take against this evil practice still prevailing in various Southern States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) We have seen the press report. Further information is being collected from the State Government of Karnataka.

(b) The southern States where this practice still prevails have special laws such as Bombay Devedasi Prevention Act, 1934, Madras Devdasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947 etc. which prohibit Devdasi system in those States. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956, which has been twice amended in 1956 and 1986 to make it more effective and its penal provisions more stringent, is applicable to all the States and Union Territories. The Act also envisages setting up of protective homes, or corrective institutions for the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of the rescued women and girls. The enforcement of the Act lies with the State Governments.

Eligibility to appear in the entrance examination for Medical and Engineering Institutes

1732. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether science students appearing in Delhi Senior School Certificate Examination in March, 1987, are elibible to sit in entrance examinations to be conducted by AIIMS, IIT and other medical and engineering colleges and institutions in 1987, provided they fulfil other terms and conditions prescribed for the purpose;

(b) whether these students are not allowed to sit in entrance examination being conducted by CBSE, Delhi, on the 3rd May, 1987, for admission to 15 per cent of total intake capacity of AIIMS and other medical colleges in some states;

(c) whether non-eligibility condition is contrary to the directions given by Supreme Court for conducting the examination; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to rectify the lacuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

The candidates who are taking up qualifying examination and whose results are not declared may also appear at the All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination, 1987 to be conducted by the CBSE, New Delhi. However, these candidates will not be eligible for admiss .v.. um S ETHTE Courses if they do not submit the Marks. Statement of the qualifying examination with the required precentage of marks as prescribed in the Bulletin of Information and the press statement issued by the CBSE, New Delhi,

The AIIMS, New Delhi has been exempted from the purview of All India Entrance Examination as that Institute is already holding their own Entrance Test on all-India basis.

(c) and (d) The Question does not arise.

स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं को सहायता

1733. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग** क्या **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राज्यवार कितनी-कितनी स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं को केन्द्र द्वारा मान्यता तथा सहायता दी गयी है ;

(ख) इन संस्थाओं को प्रति वर्ष कितनी राशि की केन्द्रीय सहायता मिलती है और वे यह सहायता किन नियमों के अन्तर्गत प्राप्त करती हैं तथा इन संस्थाओं से प्रति वर्ष कितने लोग लाभान्वित होते हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन संस्थाओं को ये अनुदान तीन वर्ष की अवधि के लिये दिये जाते हैं ; और

(घ) क्या इस सम्बंध में नियमों में संशोधन किये जाने के बारे में कोई मांग प्राप्त हुई है ; यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई ?